

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07
COME-00 TRSE-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 /107 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 33
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PORG, ECOSOC, PLO
SUBJECT: ECWA COOPERATION WITH PLO ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
CONDITIONS

REF: STATE 285771 AND STATE 302696

1. IN WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA), ADNAN RAOUF, EMBASSY OFFICER
DISCREETLY ACQUIRED INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTELS. RAOUF HAS
FRANKLY HAD DIFFICULTY IN DETERMINING EXACTLY HOW TO FULFILL REQUEST
OF ECOSOC TO COOPERATE WITH PLO "CONCERNING PROJECTS TO IMPROVE
THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."
IN ADDITION TO ECOSOC REQUEST RAOUF ALSO MUST FIND MEANS TO
COMPLY WITH SIMILAR ECWA RESOLUTION PASSED AT ECWA CONFERENCE
IN DOHA DURING MAY, 1976 AND ECWA DECISION OF SAME CONFERENCE TO
UNDERTAKE CENSUS OF PALESTINIANS. NONETHELESS, HE INTENDS TO TRY
TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUESTS. AS FIRST STEP, ECWA WILL MEET
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WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES DURING FIRST PART OF JANUARY, 1977
TO TRY TO ESTABLISH TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SHORT TERM AND
LONG TERM STUDIES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE ECWA MIGHT PROVIDE.
ACCORDING TO RAOUF, ECWA WILL SUBSEQUENTLY TRY TO ENLIST
FIGURE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND "OBJECTIVITY" TO HEAD UP
ECWA EFFORT WITH SMALL, FOUR TO SIX PEOPLE, STAFF. RAOUF

HIMSELF IS TO BE CONTACT POINT BETWEEN ECWA AND THIS INDIVIDUAL.

2. COMMENT -- RAOUF IS OBVIOUSLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLIANCE WITH ECOSOC AND ECWA RESOLUTIONS, BUT HE SEEMS COMMITTED TO DO HIS BEST TO CARRY THEM OUT. AS HE POINTED OUT IN OTHER CONTEXTS, IT IS HARD IN FIRST PLACE TO DETERMINE WHO PLO SPEAKS FOR OR WHO WHOULD BE INCLUDED IN CENSUS OF PALESTINIANS. FURTHER, IN FLUID STATE OF PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS, HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WHAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE ECWA MIGHT APPROPRIATELY PROVIDE. FINALLY, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ECWA EFFORTS ARE LIKELY TO BECOME A FOIL FOR POLITPUAL INTERESTS OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ARAB FROUPS. IT IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY FOR THIS REASON THAT ECWA WILL ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT A NON-POLITICAL INTERNATIONAL FIGURE TO DIRECT THE EFFORT. END COMMENT.
PICKERING

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